

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY

Czechoslovakia

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SUBJECT

Tunnel and Power Plant on the Vltava River near Slapy

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The object of this construction was to divert the Vltava (Moldau) River into an underground tunnel and build a power plant on the old river bed. The construction of the tunnel was almost finished in 1949, at which time the foundation of the power plant was laid.

The equipment included two steam compressors, a number of stone crushers, concrete mixers, and four steam boilers from which steam was conducted by hoses to the various working places. Steam was used to press concrete in the tunnel and in the foundation of the power plant. In addition, there were three Diesel locomotives and one steam locomotive for the narrow-gauge railroad which were used for transporting material from the tunnel. An explosive called "donarit" was used to blast the tunnel.

The total number of employees was about one thousand, including 400 Bulgarians and 400 Slovaks. Approximately 60 men worked in the tunnel in three shifts. The tunnel was built from both sides simultaneously. Wages were on a piece work basis. Unskilled workers in the tunnel averaged five thousand crowns per month (net wage after deductions), blasting foremen received eight thousand per month and surface workers averaged three thousand crowns per month. Less than 10% of the workers were members of the Communist Party. The meager attendance at Party meetings was the object of constant complaints of the Party functionaries published in the local paper, "The Water Work Construction" (Stavba vodniho dila).

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ENCLOSURE (A): Map of the Vltava River Near Slapy with Legend

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- 1... Tunnel  
2... Foundation of the power plant

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